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I hereby certify that this correspondence, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.8, is being sent via Facsimile at 703-746-7239 and also deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

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Date: April 5, 2002

By: Seiji J. Mascari

APR 18 2002

Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re application of: Burke et al.

Docket No.: 32277.0200

Serial No.: 09/267,176

Group Art Unit: 2166

Filed: March 12, 1999

Examiner: Morgan, R.

Title: **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A
UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

Commissioner:

Applicant hereby responds to the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2001 in the above-referenced patent application. A Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) was filed on March 5, 2002. **This response is being filed by facsimile with a confirmatory copy being sent via first class mail.**

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows, and consider the following

remarks:

04/17/2002 GGEREGI 00000113 192814 09267176

01 FC:103

180.00 CH

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)

Applicant(s): Burke, et al.

Docket No.

32277.0200

Serial No.
09/267,176Filing Date
March 12, 1999Examiner
R. MorganGroup Art Unit
2166

Invention: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM

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TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

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Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	41 -	31 =	10	x \$18.00	\$180.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 -	3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$180.00

No additional fee is required for amendment.

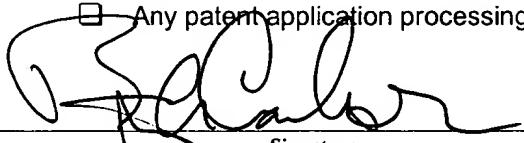
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A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2814
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Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.



Signature

Dated: April 5, 2002

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Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Suzie G. Mascari

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